

**REMARKS**

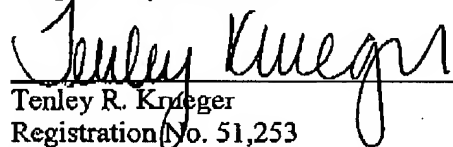
This is intended as a full and complete response to the Office Action dated August 18, 2004, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on November 18, 2004. Applicants request entry and consideration of the above noted amendments and the following remarks in response to the Office Action.

**CLAIM REJECTIONS:**

Claims 1-10, 12-15 and 16-18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by, or under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over, U.S. Patent No. 6,143,833 (*Klussman*).

*Klussman* teaches formation of polystyrene chains grafted onto a polybutadiene backbone. *Klussman* nowhere teaches or suggests forming or processing block copolymers, as recited by the instant claims. The process of *Klussman* is further distinguished from the claimed process in that *Klussman* is crosslinking and the instant claims are devolatilizing under gentle conditions to specifically avoid crosslinking. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request the same.

Respectfully submitted,



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